

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 341

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF US

SUBJ: ISRAELI PERM REP'S VIEWS ON PLO STATUS IN UN

REF: A. STATE 22353

B. USUN 340

C. USUN 266

1. ISRAELI PERMREP TEKOAH CALLED ON AMB. SCALI LATE JAN. 30 TO EXPRESS HIS GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION TO ANY ACTIONS THAT WOULD ENHANCE STATUS OF PLO OBSERVERS TO UN AFTER THEIR ASSIGNMENT TO NEW YORK. EARLIER IN DAY TEKOAH HAD CALLED ON WALDHEIM AND LEGAL ADVISOR SUY TO MAKE SAME GENERAL POINT, BUT WITH SPECIAL RELEVANCE TO DECISIONS WITHIN SYG'S PURVIEW.

2. FROM SUY'S OFFICE AND FROM TEKOAH HIMSELF, WE UNDERSTAND DISCUSSION WITH SYG DEALT PRIMARILY WITH TWO ISSUES. FIRST WAS QUESTION OF WHAT RIGHTS OF PARTICIPATION IN UN BODIES FLOW FROM GA RESOLUTION 3237 GRANTING PLO OBSERVER STATUS. SECOND ISSUE WAS WHETHER SECRETARIAT SHOULD LIST PLO IN UN "BLUE BOOK" AS AN OBSERVER MISSION. WALDHEIM'S RESPONSE ON PARTICIPATION RIGHTS WAS ESSENTIALLY AS GIVEN US EARLIER BY SUY (REFTEL C).

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AS FOR "BLUE BOOK" LISTING, SUY EVIDENTLY SAID THAT IF PLO

ARRIVED AND OPENED AND OFFICE, SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE NOTE OF ADDRESS AND LIST IT IN BACK OF BOOK. TEKOAH REPORTEDLY RESPONDED ANGRILY THAT SUCH A LISTING WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS MEANING UN HAD GRANTED PLO FACILITIES AND STATUS OF A GOVERNMENT.

3. TALKING LATER WITH SCALI, TEKOAH SEEMED MORE CONCERNED ABOUT CONTEMPLATED "BLUE BOOK" LISTING THAN ABOUT SECRETARIAT'S FAIRLY BROAD INTERPRETATION OF PLO RIGHTS OF PARTICIPATION--THOUGH HE CRITICIZED THAT TOO. HE ASKED SCALI TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO TURN WALDHEIM AROUND ON THIS POINT. SCALI REPLIED THAT HE SAW NO LEGAL REASON NECESSITATING LISTING OF PLO IN "BLUE BOOK", AGREED IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNWISE, AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

4. TEKOAH'S SECOND MAIN POINT WAS THAT USG SHOULD NOT ALLOW PLO TO SET UP A "PERMANENT OBSERVER OFFICE" IN NEW YORK. SUCH AN OFFICE, HE ARGUED, WOULD GREATLY INCREASE PLO'S STATUS AND WOULD SERVE AS FOCUS OF PROPAGANDA ACTIVITY OR WORSE. PLO OBSERVERS SHOULD BE PERMITTED ONLY TO RENT SPACE FOR SPECIFIED PERIOD, THEN BE FORCED TO LEAVE. SCALI SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE SECURITY PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE OPENING OF A PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER OFFICE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID HE FOUND IT HARD TO SEE HOW PLO REPRESENTATIVES COULD PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS UNLESS THEY HAD AN OFFICE.

5. COMMENT: UNLESS DEPT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE, WE PLAN TO RAISE "BLUE BOOK" ISSUE WITH SECRETARIAT. WE WILL ARGUE THAT NOTHING IN GA RESOLUTION 3237 COMPELS SECRETARIAT TO LIST PLO, THAT INCLUDING IT WOULD IN EYES OF GENERAL PUBLIC CONFER DEGREE OF POLITICAL STATUS EVEN THOUGH ITS LEGAL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES WOULD NOT BE ENHANCED, AND THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD BE BUYING TROUBLE WITH WEST BY TAKING THIS UNNECESSARY STEP.
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